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Note verbale dated 21 January 1999 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit to him herewith a letter dated 12 January 1999 from Mr. Lamine Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea.

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Annex

Letter dated 12 January 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following:

Following the outbreak of internal conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone and more recently in Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Guinea has been playing host to more than 700,000 refugees on its territory — one tenth of its total population — making it the world's number one host country for refugees in proportion to its population.

For almost 10 years my country has offered this generous hospitality in accordance with its international commitments. Indeed, the Republic of Guinea has acceded to and ratified all international instruments relating to refugees, including, in particular:

The Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951 and the Protocol thereto of 16 December 1966, and

The Organization of African Unity Convention governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa of 10 September 1969.

By offering this hospitality, my country has acquired considerable experience in dealing with refugees and the causes of internal conflict.

Having reviewed the Statute, rules of procedure and other juridical instruments of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Republic of Guinea has decided to announce its candidacy for a permanent seat on the Executive Committee.

(*Signed*) Lamine **Kamara**
Minister for Foreign Affairs